IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-15, 19 and 20 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 16-18, 21 and 22 and add new Claim 23 as follows.

Claims 1-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A color-information processing method for displaying color distribution based on sample points, said method comprising:

a color-distribution-information input step, of inputting ~~color-distribution information indicating~~ color coordinate values in a second ~~type of~~ color system ~~for~~ corresponding to sample points in a first ~~type of~~ color system;

a user's-instruction input step, of inputting ~~an~~ a user instruction ~~of a user~~ relating to an operation of generating a three-dimensional[[-]] object~~-surface information~~;

a step of selecting sample points in accordance with said user instruction from the sample points in the first ~~type of~~ color system and obtaining the color coordinate values in the second ~~type of~~ color system ~~for~~ corresponding to said selected sample points;

a generation step of generating ~~said~~ surface information of the three-dimensional[[-]] object~~-surface information~~ based on the obtained color coordinate values in the second color system and generating ~~a surface~~ color information of the surface of the three-

dimensional object based on the ~~selected sample points~~ obtained color coordinate values in the second color system; and

a display step of displaying color distribution based on said ~~three-dimensional object~~ surface information of the three-dimensional-object and the ~~surface~~ color information of the surface.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the sample points are regularly placed in the form of a grid in the first ~~type of~~ color system.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim [[1]] 16, wherein ~~in~~ said user's instruction input step~~, the user instructs a rage of grids displayed~~ of inputting grid ranges for each color component in the first ~~type of~~ color system[[,]] and ~~wherein in~~ said generation step[[,]] of generating the surface information of the three-dimensional object ~~surface information is generated~~ is based on the obtained color coordinates of the sample points within the ~~assigned range of grids displayed in the second type of color system~~ grid ranges.

Claims 19 and 20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for executing a color-information processing method for displaying color distribution based on sample points, said program comprising:

a color-distribution-information input step, of inputting ~~color-distribution information indicating~~ color coordinate values in a second ~~type of~~ color system ~~for~~ corresponding to sample points in a first ~~type of~~ color system;

a user's-instruction input step, of inputting ~~an~~ a user instruction ~~of a user~~ relating to an operation of generating a three-dimensional[[-]] object~~-surface information~~;

a step of selecting sample points in accordance with said user instruction from the sample points in the first ~~type of~~ color system and obtaining the color coordinate values in the second ~~type of~~ color system ~~for~~ corresponding to said selected sample points;

a generation step of generating ~~said~~ surface information of the three-dimensional[[-]] object~~-surface information~~ based on the obtained color coordinate values in the second color system and generating ~~a surface~~ color information of the surface of the three-dimensional object based on the ~~selected sample points~~ obtained color coordinate values in the second color system; and

a display step of displaying color distribution based on said ~~three-dimensional object~~ surface information of the three-dimensional object and the ~~surface~~ color information of the surface.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing color-information for displaying color distribution based on sample points, comprising:

color-distribution-information means for inputting ~~color-distribution information indicating~~ color coordinate values in a second ~~type of~~ color system ~~for~~ corresponding to sample points in a first ~~type of~~ color system;

means for inputting ~~an~~ a user instruction ~~of a user~~ relating to an operation of generating a three-dimensional[[-]] object~~-surface information~~;

a selector to select sample points in accordance with the user instruction from the sample points in the first ~~type of~~ color system and to obtain the color coordinate values in the second ~~type of~~ color system ~~for~~ corresponding to the selected sample points;

a generator for generating surface information of the three-dimensional[[-]] object~~-surface information~~ based on the obtained color coordinate values in the second color system and generating ~~a surface~~ color information of the surface of the three-dimensional object based on the ~~selected sample points~~ obtained color coordinate values in the second color system; and

a display to display color distribution based on the ~~three-dimensional object~~ surface information of the three-dimensional object and the ~~surface~~ color information of the surface.

23. (New) An apparatus for processing color-information for displaying color distribution based on sample points, comprising:

a color-distribution-information device to input color coordinate values in a second color system corresponding to sample points in a first color system;

an input device to input a user instruction relating to an operation of generating a three-dimensional object;

a selector to select sample points in accordance with the user instruction from the sample points in the first color system and to obtain the color coordinate values in the second color system corresponding to the selected sample points;

a generator for generating surface information of the three-dimensional object based on the obtained color coordinate values in the second color system and generating color information of the surface of the three-dimensional object based on the obtained color coordinate values in the second color system; and

a display to display color distribution based on the surface information of the three-dimensional object and the color information of the surface.